Past Pursuits

A Newsletter of the Special Collections Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library

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Akron's Union Park

By Michael Elliott, Public Service Assistant

View of Union Park from the corner of College and Mill Streets in 1911. Akron High School's bell tower is visible in the background.

On March 11, 1848, in his desire to "provide for the health and convenience of the inhabitants of the town of Akron," Colonel Simon Perkins executed a deed whereby he conveyed to the city two small parcels of land "for the purpose of public squares, or grounds." Originally a part of the town common or cow pasture, the smaller of these two donations was triangular in shape and was initially comprised of slightly less than two acres. In the terms of the deed, Perkins specified that his gift should remain perpetually fenced (likely to prevent the roaming of the aforementioned cattle) and that no structures of any kind could ever be built within the dimensions of the grounds. He also stipulated that the title could never be transferred. Failure to adhere to these directives would result in a forfeiture of the title and a reversion of the property to Perkins or his heirs. **Continued on Page 2**

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Akron's Union Park (continued)

The city gratefully accepted the bequest and promptly enclosed the area with temporary wooden fencing. Due to the distinctive footprint of the grounds the area was initially christened "Flatiron" park until early February of 1869, when City Council officially changed the name to Union Park in a possible tribute to the newly restored Union of the post Civil War era.

In subsequent years the park underwent many developments and improvements with a major highlight being the construction of Akron High School (later Central) along the park's southeastern edge in 1886. Indeed, the decision to construct the new school at that chosen location may well have been influenced by the proximity of the park. By this time the park had been graded and sodded with ornamental and shade trees scattered throughout its boundaries. Benches had been added and a bandstand put up for use during the extremely popular summer evening concerts provided by the City. It was also around this time that the grounds were enclosed with the existing cast iron fence bordering the park dimensions. This permanently put to rest the ongoing concern of the City authorities who had been bedeviled for years over the possibility of the property reverting to the Perkins family due to the terms of the deed not being followed.

Akron, City of Opportunity, 1889 - 1914

In June of 1894, the park witnessed a further addition when an ornate fountain was installed near the northern border of the park. Included in the design was a shallow wading pool where young mothers could bring their small children for a respite from the heat on summer days. Walkways of cut stone were laid through the park with the main entrance at the corner of Mill and College Streets providing a lovely vista of the bell tower of the high school. The whole was beautifully landscaped and contained extensive and well tended flower beds creating an oasis in an otherwise drab and crowded residential area.

The decade between 1910 and 1920 was perhaps the highlight of popularity for the park. Akron was booming and the sheer number of inhabitants ensured that Union Park would be a popular local destination. Following the First World War, there was discussion of constructing a memorial hall to honor the Summit County veterans of all wars until it was rediscovered that the terms of the deed forbade any permanent building.

Over the ensuing years, the overall condition of the Union Park grounds declined. The first casualty was the much loved fountain which disappeared without fanfare. The shade trees died one by one and were not replaced. By 1958, the *Beacon Journal* reported that the park had become a "focal point for deviates, drunkards and other undesirables." Clearly, something needed to be done regarding the future of the park. City officials stepped in and altered the grounds by removing the few remaining trees and stone walkways. A cinder track was constructed around the perimeter of the park allowing Central High students an outdoor area used for gym class, sports and space for the marching band to practice. Although technically still open to the public, the grounds were mostly used by Central High students for various school related activities.

So, the next time you pass by the now closed Central-Hower High School take a quick notice of the open, grassy area out front. It's hard to imagine, but for several decades, the area was a hub of neighborhood activity. Today, Union Park is little more than a memory with the site going unused and untended. The only constant is the durable cast iron fencing kept in place by the City honoring the terms as set forth by Simon Perkins in his bequest more than 160 years ago.

Beacon Journal Indexes Online

By Cheri Goldner, Librarian

We have recently expanded our online obituary index to the *Akron Beacon Journal* to cover the years 1940-2007. Just visit the Special Collections Web page and click on the "Obituary Index" link along the right side of your screen.

These obituary indexes are in Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF). While some of the indexes were typed by Special Collections staff members and are fully searchable, others are scanned versions of our print obituary indexes. The digital images of the scanned volumes were subjected to an optical character recognition (OCR) process to make each searchable, but because the originals are in some cases old and the text faded, the OCR process might not be as effective. For this reason, you may not be able to find a name using the search box provided on the main obituary Web page or the "find" option within an individual document. You may have to browse the volume(s) to find the entry in which you are interested, just as you would if you were using our obituary books here at the library.

The subject indexes to the *Akron Beacon Journal* for the years 1841-1939 will also soon be available on our Web site. These indexes will be in PDF as well but, due to the condition of the originals, they have not been subjected to OCR. Bookmarks have been provided to assist researchers in finding entries of genealogical interest, such as births, deaths and marriages. Under each of these headings, you will find an alphabetical list of personal names. Please note that the list under the "deaths" heading does not include suicides, murders, accidents or other deaths by violence. Articles regarding such deaths are indexed under the person's name. Likewise, divorces are usually found under the names of the parties involved.

Other entries may be found by browsing through the volumes, which are in alphabetical order by subject. Instructions for using the indexes appear at the beginning of each volume, and most volumes (those after 1871) also include a key to abbreviations. For easier reading of these indexes, be sure to use the magnification options and scroll bars in Adobe Reader.

At this time, there is still no general index to the *Beacon* for the years 1940-1983. The only indexes for this time period are our obituary indexes, a biographical card file that covers roughly 1940-2000 (that includes citations for the *Akron Times Press* and *Cleveland Plain Dealer* as well), and a card file index for *Parade Magazine,* 1979-1999 and Lifestyle and *Beacon Magazine*, 1979-1988.

We hope that making these indexes available online will make *Akron Beacon Journal* research much easier. Researchers who cannot visit the Library in order to access the *Akron Beacon Journal* on microfilm may request copies of newspaper articles using our correspondence service. Please limit each request to five items and submit only two requests per month. For those needing a large number of copies or more extensive newspaper research, Special Collections maintains a list of researchers for hire that we can mail or email upon request.

High School Yearbooks

One of our most popular collections is our Summit County High School Yearbooks. Whether it is to plan a reunion or jog a memory, many people ask to see a variety of yearbooks. While our collection includes approximately 40 titles and more than 200 volumes, it is still far from complete.

Many of these books are no longer available for purchase, so to fill in the blanks in our holdings, we are seeking donations. Some of the books we need are listed below.

East High School – any years prior to 1961
Kenmore High School – 1977-1994
Mogadore High School – 1981-1988
North High School – 1941-1965

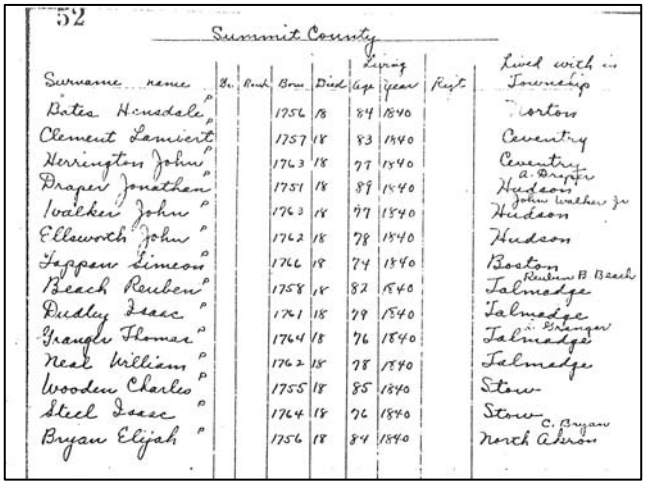
If you own any of these books and are willing to donate them to us, please contact the Special Collections Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Henry R. Baldwin Records

By Cheri Goldner, Librarian

Special Collections has added a copy of the Henry R. Baldwin Genealogical Records on microfiche to our collection. Baldwin (1867-1918) was a genealogist and registrar of his local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was interested in tracing the lineage of possible SAR members and spent his retirement years traveling around northeast Ohio and western Pennsylvania by bicycle or hired horse and buggy to interview residents, do research at court houses and copy cemetery records.

Baldwin recorded 67 volumes of data. The first seven volumes include cemetery inscriptions from Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull counties in Ohio and from Lawrence County in Pennsylvania. Readings from one Cuyahoga County cemetery (Old Erie Street Cemetery) are also included. The remaining volumes contain miscellaneous genealogical information Baldwin gathered from war, church, court and personal records and covers additional counties.



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Summit County

Surname	name	Rank	Born	Died	Age	Living year	Rel.	Lived with in Township
Bates	Hezekiah	P	1756	18	84	1840		Norton
Clement	Lamicert	P	1757	18	83	1840		Coventry
Herrington	John	P	1763	18	77	1840		Coventry
Draper	Jonathen	P	1751	18	89	1840		a. Bryan Hudson
Walker	John	P	1763	18	77	1840		John Walker Jr Hudson
Ellsworth	John	P	1762	18	78	1840		Hudson
Seppan	Simeon	P	1766	18	74	1840		Boston
Beach	Reuben	P	1758	18	82	1840		Reuben B Beach Talmadge
Dudley	Isaac	P	1761	18	79	1840		Talmadge
Grangle	Flomer	P	1764	18	76	1840		Talmadge
Neal	William	P	1762	18	78	1840		Talmadge
Wooden	Charles	P	1755	18	85	1840		Stow
Steel	Isaac	P	1764	18	76	1840		Stow
Bryan	Elijah	P	1756	18	84	1840		C. Bryan North Akron

Sample page from the Henry R. Baldwin Records showing Summit County residents.

Mr. Baldwin did the research for these records himself. Errors are possible due to illegible tombstone inscriptions or original records used by Baldwin, as well as to the transcription process when some of the handwritten records were typed by staff at the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County (PLYMC).

PLYMC staff prepared an eight-volume annotated name index to these records, a list of all cemeteries included in volumes 1-7, and a key to abbreviations. Special Collections has copies of each of these resources to aid in the use of the collection. The index is easy to use, and the handwritten portions of the records are quite legible. However, the particular sources of the information Baldwin recorded are not always clearly noted. Still, the collection can be useful in placing an ancestor in a certain area and helping researchers determine where to look for more records. Additional copies of the Baldwin records are held at PLYMC and at the Western Reserve Historical Society.

Online Books Collection

If you haven't visited our Online Books Collection, www.akronlibrary.org/internetresources/sc/OnlineBooks/onlinebks.html, you are missing some of our hidden treasures. There are many books in our collection that are not restricted by copyright laws, thereby permitting us to scan them for access from our website. Because they are scanned with OCR (optical character recognition) software, they are searchable by any word that appears in the text. While this technology isn't perfect it can be helpful.

We are especially pleased that Dr. Shirla McClain's The Contributions of Blacks in Akron 1825-1975 is among the books available. Dr. McClain's Doctoral dissertation is the most comprehensive history of African Americans in Akron. Other titles include The Jewish Criterion, 1919, and West Hill Sketchbook. Be sure to check back often, as we will continue to add titles. These books are PDF files and viewing them requires the free Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Late Night at the Library

Join the Special Collections Staff and the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society for an evening of genealogy research. On Friday, September 19, the Library will close at its regular time of 6:00 pm but will re-open for genealogists from 6:30 to 10:30 pm. Mingle with fellow researchers as you uncover the details of your ancestry. Refreshments will be provided and parking is free in the High Street & E. Market deck if you enter it after 6:00 pm. Printing and copies from microfilm will also be free. For more information, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Akron's Greek Heritage

By Mary Plazo, Librarian

When we think of Greeks in Akron, we mostly think of the delicious food they've brought to the city: Nick Anthe's, the Western Fruit Basket, Temo's Candy, and many others. You may even be familiar with some of the talented entertainers with Greek heritage from our area, like pianist Nicolas Constantinidis, or famous actress Melina Kanakaredes from the television show *CSI: NY,* whose family happens to own Temo's Candy Company in Akron. Even if these few examples come to mind, it shows how much Greek Americans have influenced our local culture.

The United States census shows Greeks coming in larger numbers to Ohio around 1880. The largest growth in the Greek population in Akron came after World War I, between 1910 and 1920. Federal population schedules, show a growth from around 56 in 1910 to 1,626 by 1920. From 1920, the heaviest populations of native Greeks lived in Cuyahoga, Mahoning, Stark, and Summit Counties.

As was the case for many who immigrated to Summit County, the rubber factories were one reason for Greeks emigrating to Akron. Other industries also attracted immigrant workers - the census shows a large population working in the match factories in Barberton, Ohio. Many of the other occupations listed for these early Greek immigrants were laborer, salesman in confectionaries, shoe shiners, tailors, peanut vendors, and fruit salesman.

One of the first Greeks to settle in Akron was Nick Laskaris. Mr. Laskaris was an active business man in the community who moved to Akron from New York in 1880 and served in the Spanish American War. He owned a wholesale confectionary establishment on Howard St. in Akron. He was also the first Fruit Commissioner in Summit County.

Nick Laskaris was born in Athens, Greece in 1853. He was a successful Akron businessman and the first Summit County Fruit Commissioner. He died in 1912.

The first real mention of the local Greek population was in the *Akron Beacon Journal* in October of 1912, during the First Balkan War. "Twenty-five Greeks left Akron to respond to their country's call to arms as many Albanians will also depart to join the Sultan's legions." The Greek armies of Thessaly under the Crown Prince Constantine successfully helped the Balkan League defeat the Ottoman opposition and liberate many of the islands that were

still under the rule of the Ottoman Empire at that time.

During World War I, there was some dissent within the different Greek factions that existed in Akron. In an article from the *Beacon Journal* in August of 1917, one Greek American citizen was quoted as saying, "Hundreds of Greeks in Akron feel unable to sympathize with those powers who deprived the unhappy nation of its beloved ruler, King Constantine, and forced the people into the war against their will… [but] as far as America is concerned, we are loyal and anxious to avoid anything to embarrass this country in the present crisis."

The Greeks in Akron also formed several organizations to celebrate their own progress and interests in the community. In 1927 the Greek-American Progressive Association was founded. In an article in the *Akron Beacon Journal* featuring founding members, the Association's purpose was "to increase friendship among Greek-Americans and to bring an understanding and sympathy of American ideals to her foreign born citizens and residents."

By the late 1930s, there were several Greek organizations in the Akron community, including the Ahepa Lodge, the Greek American Progressive Association, the Hellenic Business Men's Association, and the Arcadian Brotherhood. At this time, there were around 3,000 Greeks in Akron, most of whom were not working in the rubber factories but owned independent businesses and worked as merchants, confectioners, restaurant owners, mechanics, electricians, doctors, dentists and lawyers.

After World War II and as time went on in Akron, many small businesses were closed. Many unique ethnic specialty merchants could not stand up to larger franchises that were moving in during the 1950s, 60s and 70s. A few businesses remained strong and became more sophisticated, such as Nick Anthe's, which is still known for its fine dining, but unfortunately, many of the smaller establishments owned by Greek Americans have closed and become lost with time.

Native language was also a strong tie that bound members of the community together and led to the establishment of churches that would represent their religion from the native country. Looking at the history of the first churches created in Akron, there were eight Eastern Orthodox churches, one of which was Greek. Five of the original eight churches were established between 1909 and 1919. Two denominations of Greek churches were established in our area by the Greeks – Greek Catholic and Greek Orthodox. Orthodoxy in Akron largely corresponds with the boom of the rubber industry and World War I.

Several Eastern Orthodox churches still exist in Akron, one of the most prominent being the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation on S. Union St., which was dedicated on Nov. 16, 1930. This is where many Greek American events are still held today, such as the annual Greek festival in Akron. Special Collections holds a very informative history of the *Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, Golden Anniversary 1917-1967*. This book has a wonderful introduction that talks in depth about the first Greeks who came to this country and about the lives of those who first began to settle in Akron, Ohio. We also have a cookbook of recipes collected by the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church called *Treasures From Our Hope Chest* with many wonderful Greek recipes. Don't forget about the annual Greek Festival in Akron coming up on September 18th, 19th, and 20th at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Akron.

Fortunately today we still have a few reminders in our city of the wonderful culture that those early immigrants from Greece brought and shared with us. We should remember to enjoy those special places that are still with us and that can provide us with a connection to the heritage brought by so many when they came to the land of opportunity.

John F. Seiberling Photograph Collection

In addition to his many accomplishments as United States congressman, conservationist, and law school professor, John Seiberling was an avid photographer. Rarely without a camera, Mr. Seiberling took thousands of photographs during his personal and official travels. It has been said that many of his beautiful nature and landscape photos were influential in swaying other legislators to vote for conservation issues that he supported.

Special Collections is honored to have been chosen by Mr. Seiberling and his family as the repository for these remarkable photographs. The collection includes photographs of many natural areas in the United States, including the Cuyahoga Valley prior to its designation as a National Recreation Area. Hundreds of photos he took for the Alaska Lands Act of 1980, which he helped craft, are also included in the collection.

Mr. Seiberling's official papers are held by Archival Services at the University of Akron. An inventory of the collection may be viewed on their website: http://www3.uakron.edu/ul/archives/findingaids/johnseiberling.htm.

Although Mr. Seiberling passed away on August 2, the community is fortunate that his legacy will be preserved in his hometown of Akron.

Summit Memory Update

The Summit Memory Project welcomes the Barberton Public Library (BPL) as its newest partner. BPL contributed the O.C. Barber Mansion Collection. The construction of Ohio Columbus Barber's large estate, which began in 1909, made local and national headlines and was described in the *New York Times* as the "finest mansion between New York and Chicago." The Barber Mansion, as it is commonly known, stood in Barberton from 1909 until its demolition in 1965. Visit the Summit Memory Project to see this collection of more than 40 images.

Akron Remembers 1968

By Cheri Goldner, Librarian

It is the 40th anniversary of this pivotal year in history, which included important local, national and international events. There was chaos at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. George Wallace, Hubert Humphrey and Richard Nixon all visited Akron during the presidential campaign. There were civil rights demonstrations, and urban unrest hit the nation's cities, including Akron's Wooster Avenue neighborhood. Both Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy were assassinated. Student demonstrations and anti-Vietnam War protests erupted across the nation and in many parts of the world, with local activists in Akron and surrounding communities. The environmental movement and women's movement gathered momentum as well. Meanwhile, the Counterculture was in full swing, with psychedelic music, bell-bottoms, sandals and tie-dye in fashion. The Blossom Music Center opened that year, hosting three concerts by the Cleveland Orchestra as well as shows by Arlo Guthrie, Judy Collins, the Association, Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass, and Ravi Shankar.

To commemorate this significant year in history, the Akron-Summit County Public Library and Dr. Gregory Wilson of The University of Akron's Department of History, with the cooperation of the City of Akron and Lock 3 Live!, have undertaken an oral history project called *The Times They Were A-Changin': Akron Remembers 1968*. Staff from the Library and the Department of History collected memories from key individuals and the general public over the summer. Work on the project continues into the fall, with UA history students conducting additional interviews and assisting with an exhibit to be opened at the Lock 3 Akron History Museum in November, just in time for the winter activities downtown.

Be sure to stop in at the museum during HolidayFest and view the exhibit. If you have stories that you'd like to contribute, contact Special Collections.

Summit County Additions to the National Register of Historic Places

By Jane Gramlich, Librarian

Over the past year, four Summit County properties have been added to the National Register of Historic Places, the most for any single year since 2002, when nine properties were added. Three of these additions are within Akron's city limits, so if you're participating in Akron History Trails this year by visiting the city's neighborhoods, be sure to take a look at them!

First National Bank Tower, 106 S. Main St., downtown: The tallest building in Akron dominates its skyline, visible from many of the city's outlying neighborhoods. Constructed in 1931 in the Art Deco style, it has been known by several names, including the First Central Trust Building, First National Tower, and now FirstMerit Tower. For some wonderful postcard views of this building, check out Summit Memory at www.summitmemory.org and do an advanced search for the exact phrase "First National Tower."

Rhodes and Watters Apartment Buildings, 608-614 W. Market St. and 16 Rhodes Ave. near Highland Square: These buildings are examples of apartment housing commonly built during Akron's industrial boom years of the 1910s and 20s, using popular architectural styles of the time such as Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and the Commercial style.

Cole Avenue Housing Project Historic District, 744 Colette Dr., between Cole Ave. and E. Archwood Ave. northeast of Firestone Park: This development, constructed in 1941, resulted from efforts to secure public housing for defense workers during World War II and subsequently served as housing for veterans. It won approval for the Register in part because it has not undergone major renovations, as many similar federal housing projects of that time have.

Levi J. Hartong House and Farm, 6521 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Green: Now called Southgate Farm, this 1839-1850 farmstead has been well preserved and includes 197 acres with a farmhouse in the Italianate and Eastlake styles, an 1883 barn, and a family cemetery. It is the first property in Green to be included in the National Register.

If you're interested in finding out more about historic Ohio properties recently added to the National Register, check out the Ohio Historical Society's newsletter, *Echoes*, which runs regular updates. To see a list of current Ohio properties on the Register, visit the OHS National Register http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ohpo/nr/index.aspx.. You can also view information on National Register properties nationwide at http://www.nr.nps.gov/ or http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/.

Holidayfest 2008

Join the fun and celebration at the fifth annual Holidayfest at Lock 3 Park in Downtown Akron. Shopping, ice-skating, food, and entertainment await you at this holiday event. Meet the artisans from Akron's sister city, Chemnitz, Germany, as they showcase their wares at the Chriskindl Market.

Grab some skates and head to the ice-skating rink, a favorite site of skaters and spectators alike. Feast on authentic German fare at the Hutzenstub. Performances and other events are scheduled for your enjoyment. Holidayfest begins with the Holiday Lighting Spectacular on Friday, November 28th at 7 pm and runs through First Night on New Year's Eve. For more information, please visit http://www.holidayfest.org/ or call 330.375.2871.

We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

Akron Crime Clinic for the *Akron Crime Clinic Collection.*

Greater Akron Touchdown Club for the *Greater Akron Touchdown Club Collection.*

Joan Schomer for *The William Lance/Lantz Family History* by Joan Schomer.

Bryan Stoneburner for programs from the PGA and World Series of Golf Tournaments.

Brenda Walko for photographs of the Pangburn and Zimmerman families of Akron.

Warren Skidmore for *A Continuing Look at Life Through the Eyes of Emerson Batdorf* by Emerson Batdorf.

Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society for gifts in memory of deceased members:

Index of Early Marriages in Medina County, OH, vol. A-D, 1818-1878, on CD-ROM, Donated IMO Betty Jo Leonard, 13 Oct 1942--27 Jul 2007

Index to Church Records at Emmanuel E & R Church Established 1838, indexed 1847-1920, Donated IMO Colette Marie Casslo 15 Oct 1912--6 Feb 2008

Indexes to the Medina County Story (1982-1986, 1987-1991, 1992-1996), Donated IMO Rhoda M. Richardson Phillips 9 Oct 1927--13 Dec 2007

Database Spotlight: New England Ancestors

New England Ancestors is your connection to resources of the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), the oldest nonprofit genealogical organization in the United States. From early town records to published family histories, the genealogist can search an assortment of databases listed alphabetically, by location, or by record type. In addition to the New England states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, there are a few resources for Canada, England, and Ireland.

New England Ancestors is not limited to its great database collection. Researchers have access to genealogy articles and event news of the NEHGS; help from an online genealogist; the NEHGS library catalog; online seminars; and information about the society's research services.

Access to New England Ancestors is limited to the Main Library. Visit us in downtown Akron to use this wonderful genealogy resource.

Local History Events

Greek Festival
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, September 18-20
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church at 129 South Union Street is hosting a Greek Festival. For more information, including a schedule of events, contact the Church at festival@annunciationakron.org or 330.434.0000.

Harvest Festival
Hale Farm & Village
Saturday & Sunday, October 11 & 12
It's autumn and the trees are ablaze with color in the Cuyahoga Valley! Come, taste the fresh-pressed apple cider, help stir the apple butter (you might get a taste!) and join in the work and celebration of a bountiful harvest. For more information, please call 800.589.9703.

Memory Lane - From There to Here
Western Reserve Historical Society
Saturday, October 11, 1 pm
You and your family can take on the role of a migrant, immigrant, or political refugee household. Become history detectives and discover the path of your family's journey to Cleveland. A behind-the-scenes program in one of our education spaces normally not open to the public. Free with museum admission.

Remember When©
Summit County Historical Society
Tuesday, October 14, 1:30 pm
The Society will present the Remember When©…Interactive programs for adults, Grandma's Attic/Grandpa's Garage in the Gallery of the John Brown House. Light refreshments will be served in the John Brown House following the presentation. Reservations are required as seating is limited and the program cost for guests is $12. Members are free. Contact Alison at 330.535.1120 to make your reservation.

Akron Churches: Early Architecture
Highland Square Branch, Friends of the Library
Wednesday, October 22, 6:30 – 8 pm
Join us at the Highland Square Branch as Kally Mavromatis presents her book, *Akron Churches: Early Architecture*. The book documents the architecture of the magnificent churches and cathedrals that have long dotted Akron's cityscape. Ms. Mavromatis is an Akron-area freelance writer and reporter. A book signing will follow the presentation. Sign up is requested at 330.376.2927.

Boys of Cleveland: The Creators of Superman
Western Reserve Historical Society
Sunday, November 9, 2 pm
Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman tells the behind-the-scenes true story of the world's first and most famous superhero - created by a pair of teenagers right here in Cleveland 70 years ago! For the behind-the-scenes story of the making of this first-of-its-kind book, join author Marc Tyler Nobleman for a lively hour-long presentation and Q&A. Topics will include the surprising research discoveries he made while in Cleveland, the authentic touches he put into the text and illustration of the book, his unlikely role in this year's "Summer of Superman" event, the debunking of a few curious Superman myths, and his path from book idea to publication. Book sales and signing. The program is free with museum admission.

Holiday Lantern Tours
Hale Farm & Village
Friday & Saturday, December 5 & 6 and 12 & 13, Friday through Tuesday, December 19-23
Take a holiday-history tour of Wheatfield Village in 1863 and meet townsfolk who keep the Yuletide spirit in their hearts in spite of absent loved ones far away on the field of battle. There is a special charge for this event, and reservations are necessary. For more information, please call 800.589.9703.

Genealogy Events

Late Night at the Library
Special Collections & Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society
Friday, September 19, 6:30 – 10:30 pm
The Library will close at its regular time of 6:00 pm but will re-open for genealogists from 6:30 to 10:30 pm. Mingle with fellow researchers as you uncover the details of your ancestry. Refreshments will be provided and parking is free in the High Street & E. Market deck if you enter it after 6:00 pm. For more information, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Graphoanalysis – What Your Handwriting Says about You and Your Ancestors
Summit County OGS
Saturday, September 20, 1 pm
Rebecca Easton-Wehr, a Certified Graphoanalyst, will explain everything you ever wanted to know about handwriting. She works with her local police department, banks, attorneys, and individual businesses. Bring your ancestors' signature to learn more about them. Join us at the Main Library in downtown Akron.

Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors, 1820-1940
Special Collections
Tuesday, September 30, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Their travels to the United States and along the path to U.S. citizenship are often documented, but finding these records is sometimes a challenge. Join us in Computer Lab 2 of Main Library for information on how to identify immigrant ancestors and locate passenger lists and naturalization records. As we will be using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. For more information or to sign up, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

2008 Fall Seminar
Ohio Genealogical Society
Saturday, October 4, 9 am – 4 pm
Join us as the James Kehoe Center at the North Central State College at 175 Mansfield St. in Shelby for an all-day seminar. John Humphrey will present *Researching German Ancestors*, *Researching Pennsylvania Ancestors*, and *Pennsylvania's Early Church Registers*. Lunch is on your own. Mr. Humphrey's books will be available for purchase. The Post-Conference Open House Reception will be held at the OGS Library in Mansfield. Reservations

$30 OGS who pay by October 1st; $35 at the door and for any non-members. For more information, visit http://www.ogs.org/index.php.

Genealogy Workshop: Overlooked Resources
Western Reserve Historical Society
Saturday, October 4, 12 – 3 pm
Topics cover less standard but still valuable sources for genealogists, including: histories, church records, city and county directories, maps and gazetteers, dictionaries, institutional records, school records, migration patterns, newspapers, court records, periodicals, Recorder's Office records, and more. For more information, contact Roger Ellsworth, 216.229.7887 or arby69@sbcglobal.net

Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors, 1820-1940
Special Collections
Saturday, October 18, 10 – 12 pm
Their travels to the United States and along the path to U.S. citizenship are often documented, but finding these records is sometimes a challenge. Join us in Computer Lab 2 of Main Library for information on how to identify immigrant ancestors and locate passenger lists and naturalization records. As we will be using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. For more information or to sign up, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Citations are Easy
Summit County OGS
Saturday, October 18, 1 pm
Confused about when and how to write citations for your genealogical documents? Learn when to use citations and the basics of how to write citations. Then see how to use the formats found in Evidence*!* *Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian* and *Evidence Explained*, by Elizabeth Shown Mills, to formulate citations for sample documents. Presented by Donna Redhead Gruber, CGSM at the Main Library in downtown Akron.

Elusive Female Ancestors
Western Reserve Historical Society
Saturday, November 1, 12 – 3 pm
Learn how to trace your female forbears in this class. Topics include maiden names, finding parents, naturalization law, military records, property law, marriage and divorce, and more. For more information, contact Roger Ellsworth, 216.229.7887 or arby69@sbcglobal.net

Introduction to Internet Genealogy
Special Collections
Saturday, November 8, 10 am – 12 pm
Lean about the genealogy databases available through the library as well as how to find and evaluate many popular free genealogy web sites. Basic computer skills are recommended. The class meets in Computer Lab 2, on the first floor of Main Library. For more information or to sign up, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors, 1820-1940
Special Collections
Tuesday, November 18, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Their travels to the United States and along the path to U.S. citizenship are often documented, but finding these records is sometimes a challenge. Join us in Computer Lab 2 of Main Library for information on how to identify immigrant ancestors and locate passenger lists and naturalization records. As we will be using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. For more information or to sign up, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

New to the Collection

Alabama

Cherokee County, marriage index, 1821-1898
Franklin County, marriage index: 1890-1902
Henry County, marriage index, 1821-1871
Lauderdale County, marriage index, 1819-1877
Marshall County, marriage index, 1836-1847
Perry County, marriage index, 1820-1839
Pike County, biographies
Sumter County, marriage index, 1833-1850
Tuscaloosa County, marriage index, 1821-1860
Washington County, marriage index, 1856-1873

Connecticut

Hartford County, county court minutes, Vol 3 & 4, 1663-1687, 1697

Delaware
Delaware genealogical research guide

Georgia
All known cemeteries of Clayton County
Athens-Clarke County, cemeteries
Chatham County, history & biographies
Cherokee County, biographies
Cherokee County, marriage records, 1841-1910
Clarke County, marriage records, 1803-1909
Fayette County, marriage records, 1823-1850
Floyd County, marriage records, 1837-1870
Forsyth County, marriage records, 1833-1867
Gwinnett County: marriages, 1833-1900
Hall County, history & biographies
Henry County, 1821-1894: marriage, colored / freeman records of sales, inventory and wills
Henry County, obituaries, 1908-1929
Houston County, marriage records, 1825-1898: Volume I, Book A, B, C, and D
Index to register of deaths in Savannah: vol. I-IV, 20 October 1830-June 1853
Marriage index, Clayton County: Books A, B, C, D, Females
Marriage records of Houston County, Vol. II: marriage book "E", 1896-1919
Muscogee County, history & biographies

Illinois
An index of headstones in Lincoln Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois

Kentucky
Ancestral graves in Warren County, 2 vols.
Barren County, will book. 5 vols. 1799- 1902
Black & slave vital statistics, Volume 3: Barren County, 1870 census; Cumberland County, births & deaths
Eastern Cemetery records, 3 vols.
History of Jessamine County, 1798-1993
South Central Kentucky vital statistics: births & deaths for slaves and Black families, Vol. 1: Allen, Barren, Metcalfe & Monroe counties
Warren County, will book D: 358 wills, March 1826 through June 1862
Warren County, wills & inventories, Book C: July term, 1824 through January 5 term, 1827

Maine
Vital records of Bridgton, Maine
Vital records of Bucksport, Maine

Maryland
The Little Falls meeting of Friends, 1738-1988: prepared for the two hundred fiftieth anniversary celebration, Sept. 2

Massachusetts
Blackinton Cemetery interment record
The "register" of Dr. William H. Tyler: copied from an original manuscript annotated by Elmer I. Shepard, 1941

Michigan
Cemetery records of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church Cemetery, Dearborn, Michigan
A directory of cemeteries in Wayne County
Divorce proceeding records of Monroe County, 1873-1914
Family histories of Ionia County, Michigan
Marriage records of Monroe County, Vol. I: 1818-1864; Vol. II: 1865-1878:Vol. III: 1878-1887 Vol. IV: 1887-1896; Vol. V: 1896-1903; Vol. VI: 1903-1905
Northview Cemetery tombstone inscriptions, Dearborn
Wills recorded in deed books in Monroe County: with indexes (5 vols.) 1847-1920

Mississippi
Cemeteries of DeSoto County: African-American Cemetery records, volume 1
Lauderdale County, marriage record book I: 12/14/1847 to 12/20/1867

New Hampshire
Barrington, New Hampshire vital records
'Til divorce do us part: marriages and divorces from Cheshire County, from 1776-1899

New York
Abstracts from Madison County newspapers in the Cazenovia Public Library
Death notices from Steuben County, newspapers, 1797-1884
Deaths in the New York Reformer, 1850-1861
Early American times

Early families of Otsego County, New York, Vol. 1
Early Welsh settlers of Oneida County
Marriage notices from Steuben County, newspapers, 1797-1884
Vital records of First Congregational Church, Locke Cayuga County
New York's Finger Lakes pioneer families, especially Tompkins County: a genealogical notebook
Rev. John Robert Young's records from the counties of Clinton, Cortland, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario & Steuben, 1846-186
Schuyler County, New York: history & families
Tax records of Stephentown, for 1789, 1790, 1791

North Carolina

North Carolina slaves and free persons of color: Iredell County

Ohio

Abstracts inventory and sales record B: June 1923-January 1928, Harrison County
Athens Township cemeteries, Harrison County
Chapel Heights Memorial Garden, 1934-2000, Bk 2, Marion County
Coshocton County, plat maps index of property owners
Early membership papers, Friends Church, Short Creek (Georgetown), Harrison County, Ohio
Excerpts from The Harrison Telegraph of Cadiz: 1821-1828 and 1832
First families Marion County: pioneer ancestors proven before 1840 or 1850
Funeral directors' records of Mr. Tom E. Drake and Mrs. Fred Gehm, Prospect, Ohio, 1907-1972. Vol. 4: 1931-1940, Marion County
Grand Prairie Cemetery, books 1 and 2:1881-2005, Marion County
Harrison County schools
Index to newspaper obituaries, Coshocton County, 1826-1908
John Morton, Esq., Justice of the Peace of Smithfield Twp., 1810-1846, Harrison County
Knox County, Ohio, marriages, book 7: probate court records. Probate court records 1903-1906
Marion Area Genealogy Society surname index: Books 1-4 inclusive
Marion , Ohio will record, I, II, and III: microfilm roll 496 & 496-498, Marion Public Library
Montgomery Township cemeteries, Marion County
Probate court birth records, Mercer County, Book II: 1882-1888; Book III: 1888-1901
Short Creek Township cemeteries, Harrison County
Tombstone inscriptions and more: St. Mary's Cemetery, Marion County

Pennsylvania

Abstracts of Adams County, Pennsylvania, wills. 2 vols. 1745-1800; 1826-1850)
Abstracts of the Washington Reporter, Washington County, 1820-1822, Vol. 4; 1823-1825, Vol. 5
Abstracts of deeds and other property records, Northampton County. Documents dating from 1745-1805. Volume 5
Beaver County cemeteries, Vol. 4
Birth, marriages and deaths of Bedford and Somerset counties, 1852-1854
Bucks County, miscellaneous deed dockets, 1785-1857
Buffalo Valley history: history of the Groffdale Conference Mennonites in Union County, 1960-2004
Carbon County, 19th century tombstone abstracts
Cemetery records of Cambria and Somerset counties, Volume IX
Deep Run Mennonite Church East: a 250-year pilgrimage, 1746-1996, Bucks County
Elders of each church [Mennonite]
A history of old Tioga Point and early Athens,
Landisville Mennonite Cemetery: gravestone transcriptions and parentages
Marriages performed in the City of Reading, Berks County, July 1, 1876-October 1, 1885
Mennonites of the Washington County, Maryland and Franklin County, Pennsylvania conference
Monroe County, death records: 1893-1904, 1852-55
Paxtang Cemetery, Borough of Paxtang, Dauphin County
Records from the past: funeral home records, Fairchance, Fayette County, 3 vols
Selected Dauphin County, death records, 1893-1906
Shenango Valley Cemetery, Book I: 1882-1913, Mercer County

Vance-Brownfield Funeral Home records, Main Street, Smithfield, 1892-1981, Huntingdon Co.

South Carolina

Abstracts of extant Greenville newspapers concerning black people free & slave, 1826-65: Vol. II
Anderson County, cemeteries, 8 vols.
Cemetery records of Richland County, 5 vols.
Greenville County, Mackey Mortuary death records, 1889-1921
Greenville, cemetery survey. 7 vols.
Horry County cemetery records. Vol. 1-4, 6-8, 10
Horry County marriages abstracted from newspapers (1861-1912)
Interment records of Elmwood Cemetery, Columbia, 3 vols.
South Carolina's royal grants, 2 vols. Books 1-17, 1732-1768

Tennessee

Bradley County, marriage index, 1864-1887
Cheatham County history of Tennessee
Cheatham County, marriage records, 1856-1897
Cheatham County, wills & inventories, Volume A, 1856-1871
Dickson County: history of Tennessee
Dickson County, will book A, 1804-1856
Fayette County, marriage index, 1838-1857
Gibson County, marriage index, 1824-1860
Madison County, marriage license book, vol. II, 1838-1847
Roane County, marriage index, 1801-1855
Sequatchie County, marriage index, 1858-1922
Union County history of Tennessee
Union County, cemeteries; W.P.A. records
Weakley County, marriage index, 1843-1863

Vermont

A bibliography for Vermont genealogy

Virginia

1856 land tax, Northampton County, Virginia
1856 personal property tax for Northampton County
Abstracts of Pittsylvania County, deeds: 1783-1790
The history of Virginia State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc.
The land tax lists of Pittsylvania County, 1782-1902
Landmarks: Black historic sites on the eastern shore of Virginia
Register of free Negroes and certificates of freedom, Northampton County, 1793-1864
The vestry book of King William Parish, 1707-1750 (Powhatan County)

West Virginia

Index to obits in the Parkersburg News, 1990-1999
Wirt County, deaths: 1905-1930
Wirt County, deaths, 1931-1970

Military

22nd Regiment Mississippi Infantry, C.S.A.
The Black Watch at Ticonderoga and Major Duncan Campbell of Inverawe
Civil War soldiers & sailors of the eastern shore of Virginia: Union & Confederate
Confederate sailors, Marines and signalmen from Virginia and Maryland
The Cornwell chronicles: tales of an American life on the Erie Canal, building Chicago, in the Volunteer Civil War Western Army, on the farm, in a country store
Davis' Mississippi Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia: a muster listing
Dead soldiers at Gettysburg: burials and re-burials, 1863-1873
Directory of Civilian Public Service
Featherstone's/Posey's/Harris' Mississippi Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia: a muster listing
Forgotten patriots: African-American and American Indian patriots in the Revolutionary War: a guide to service, sources and studies
From pastime to passion: baseball and the Civil War
Genealogical data from United States Military Academy application papers, 1805-66, Vol. 1
Gettysburg staff ride: briefing book
Stalemate: US Marines from Bunker Hill to the Hook
Voices from the past: 104th Infantry Regiment, USCT, Colored Civil War soldiers from South Carolina

Native Americans

The Accomac and Accohannock Indians from early relations

History, manners and customs of the Indian nations who once inhabited Pennsylvania and the neighboring states
Only the names remain. 6 vols. [Indian Territory, Oklahoma]

Reference
Courthouse indexes illustrated
Hookers, crooks and kooks. Part I: Hookers. Part II: Crooks and kooks
In search of your Confederate ancestors
Kinship: it's all relative
On doing local history
Oral history manual

Canada
Finding your Canadian ancestors: a beginner's guide

Germany
Friedrichstal church records, 1698-1812
Map guide to German parish registers:
Kingdom of Bavaria I, Unterfranken
Kingdom of Bavaria II, Oberfranken
Kingdom of Bavaria III, Mittlefranken
Kingdom of Bavaria IV, Oberpfalz
Kingdom of Bavaria V, Schwaben
Kingdom of Bavaria VI, Niederbayern I
Kingdom of Bavaria VII,Niederbayern II
Welschneureut church records, Welschneureut, Germany, 1700-1809

Mexico
Naturalizations of Mexican-Americans: extracts. 4 vols.

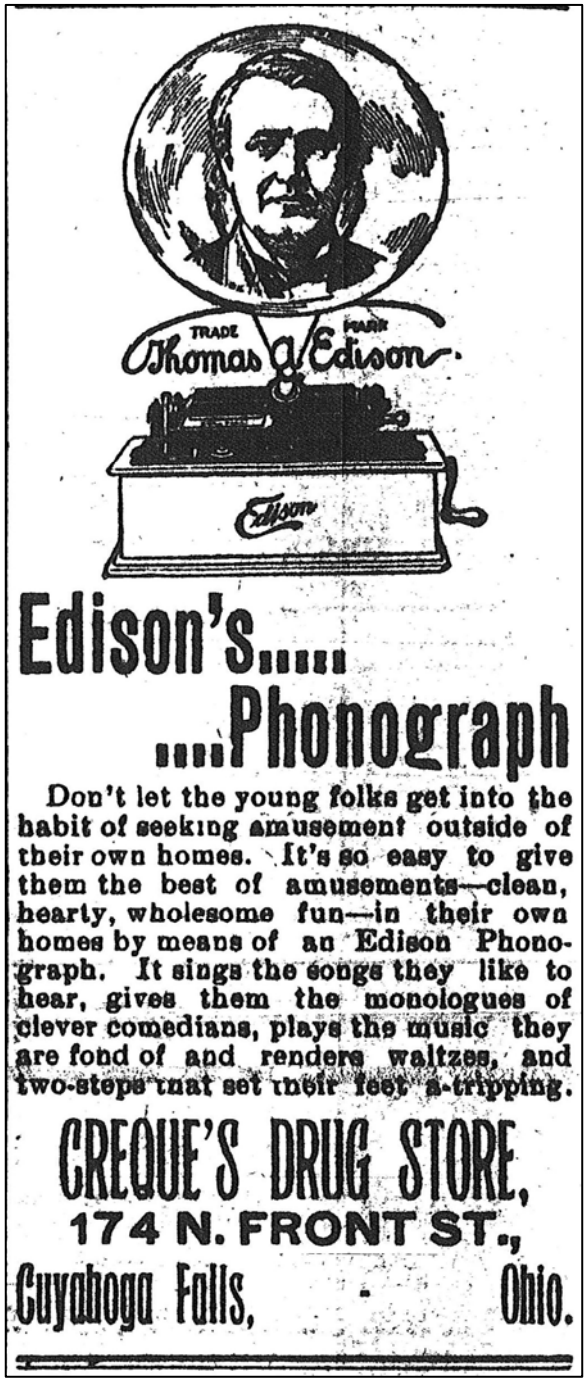
Scotland
The gazetteer of Scotland

Wales
Welsh family history: a guide to research

Genealogies
Maine families in 1790, vol. 9
Pioneers and residents of West Central Alabama prior to the Civil War

Published by the Special Collections Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library, Akron, Ohio.
Editor: Joanne O'Dell

Bits & Bygones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Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

This advertisement appeared in the Cuyahoga Falls Reporter in the August 8, 1908 issue, column 6 of page 3.

Special Collections Division
Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 South High Street
Akron, Ohio 44326

Reminder

Late Night at the Library is Friday, September 19th from 6:30 – 10:30 pm. Join the Special Collections Staff and the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society for an evening of research. For more information, please contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

The Akron-Summit County Public Library Special Collections Division is located on the third floor of the Main Library.

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